

## Experts on character

Either work through these sections in pairs, or work in small expert groups, allocating a different focus to each group. When each expert group have completed their tasks, regroup so that you have one expert from each topic and share your findings.



## The conspirators

To what extent would you describe these characters as conspirators to murder?

1. Marcus Brutus
2. Caius Cassius
3. Casca
4. Cicero
5. Cinna
6. Decius Brutus
7. Ligarius

Use these guidelines to sum up each character.

1. What is their motive (reason for committing murder)?
2. Select five words to describe this character.
3. Award marks out of 10 for their contribution to the murder of Julius Caesar.

## The women

Whose wife is Portia?

Whose wife is Calpurnia?

Compare and contrast these two women, using the following to help you. You might like to present your answers in a table form, using bullet points, a mind-map, or something else!

1. Choose five words to describe each character
2. Find qualities that they share.
3. In what ways are they different?
4. Choose a key quotation for each character.
5. How do these women contribute to the plot?
6. What do you think the place of women was in Roman society? Do some research to find out if your presumptions are correct?

## Other characters

Who else appears in the play? List the other characters and evaluate their roles. Here is an example of an evaluation of Cinna:

	Character description	Their role is to ...?	Judge the importance of their role.	Your own view of this character
Cinna (2)	A harmless poet – shares his name with the conspirator Cinna.	Die – the crowd think that he is one of the assassins.	His death shows how the people of Rome feel about Caesar's death.	

## Julius Caesar

Using only the evidence provided in the play, answer the following questions:

1. At the start of the play how is Julius Caesar presented to the audience?
2. What does Julius Caesar want? What do you think his aim is?
3. There are two sides to Julius Caesar – the public face and the private person. Find evidence to demonstrate the difference.
4. Chose five positive and five negative words to describe Julius Caesar.
5. In the play, what is Julius Caesar's greatest mistake?
6. Who are Caesar's supporters and who are Caesar's enemies in the play?
7. Would you have supported Julius Caesar or the conspirators? Give reasons for your views.

## Male characters

Answer the following questions firstly thinking about Mark Antony then Octavius Caesar and Lepidus. You might like to present your answers in a table for easy comparison.

1. How is this character involved with Julius Caesar?
2. Where is he when Caesar is assassinated?
3. What kind of power does he have?
4. Choose five words to describe this character.
5. What are the key actions of this character that affect the plot of this play?
6. What do you think are the motives for this character to act as he does?
7. What experiences does this character share with Julius Caesar?